

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, line 31 through 40, (the first paragraph of the Summary of the Invention) with the following paragraph:

--The invention relates to an oligoribonucleotide having a double stranded structure (dsRNA). The oligonucleotide comprises two separate strands, wherein one strand of the dsRNA has a region which is complementary to an RNA transcript of at least a part of a target gene, wherein the region is not more than 49 nucleotides in length, and wherein the target gene is a mammalian gene. The oligoribonucleotide may have a length of between 15 and 49 base pairs, and the RNA transcript may be a primary or processed RNA. The oligoribonucleotide may comprise a linker between two RNA strands, such as a polyethylene glycol linker. The oligonucleotide may be modified so as to be resistant to RNA degradation. The oligoribonucleotide may comprise a 3' overhang, such as a single nucleotide overhang. The oligoribonucleotide may be 21 [or 23] nucleotides in length.--

The following Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions and all prior listings of the claims in the present application:

Listing of The Claims:

221. (Currently Amended) An oligoribonucleotide [having a double stranded structure (dsRNA)], comprising two separate RNA strands, a double stranded structure, and a 3' overhang, said double stranded structure being complementary to less than the full length of an RNA transcript of a mammalian target gene, and not comprising a full length RNA transcript of said mammalian target gene, [wherein one strand of the dsRNA has a region which is complementary to an RNA transcript of at least a part of a target gene,] wherein the [region] structure is not more than 49 nucleotides in length, [wherein the dsRNA comprises a 3' overhang,] and[, wherein the target gene is a mammalian gene] wherein the oligoribonucleotide specifically inhibits the expression of said target gene.

222. (Currently amended) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 221, [having] wherein said oligoribonucleotide consists of a length of between 15 and 49 [base pairs] nucleotides.

223. (Currently amended) The oligoribonucleotide [dsRNA] of claim 221 and 224, wherein the RNA transcript is a primary or a processed RNA.

224. (Currently Amended) [The oligoribonucleotide of claim 221,] An oligoribonucleotide, having a double stranded structure (dsRNA) consisting of two self-complementary RNA strands of not more than 49 nucleotides in length, wherein the dsRNA comprises a linker between the two RNA strands[.], wherein said structure is fully complementary to an RNA transcript of a mammalian target gene, wherein the dsRNA comprises a 3' overhang, and wherein the oligoribonucleotide specifically inhibits the expression of said target gene.

225. (Previously added) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 224, wherein the linker is a polyethylene glycol linker.

226-231. Previously Cancelled.

232. (Currently Amended) An isolated [A] mammalian cell comprising an exogenous oligoribonucleotide, wherein the oligoribonucleotide has a double stranded structure (dsRNA) comprising two separate RNA strands, wherein the dsRNA comprises a 3' overhang, [and] wherein one strand of the dsRNA has a region which is complementary to an RNA transcript of [at least a part of] a target gene, and wherein the dsRNA specifically inhibits the expression of said target gene.

233. (Previously added) The mammalian cell of claim 232, wherein the mammalian cell is a human cell.

234. (Previously added) The mammalian cell of claim 232, wherein the region is not more than 49 nucleotides in length.

235. (Previously added) The mammalian cell of claim 232, wherein the dsRNA has a length of between 15 and 49 base pairs.

236. (Currently Amended) The mammalian cell of claim 232 and 237, wherein the RNA transcript is a primary or a processed RNA.

237. (Currently Amended) An isolated mammalian cell comprising an exogenous oligoribonucleotide, wherein the oligoribonucleotide has a double stranded structure (dsRNA) comprising two RNA strands, wherein the dsRNA comprises a 3' overhang and is fully complementary to an RNA transcript of a target gene, [The mammalian cell of claim 232,] wherein the dsRNA comprises a linker between the two RNA strands[.] and wherein the dsRNA specifically inhibits the expression of said target gene.

238. (Currently Amended) The mammalian cell of claim 237[232], wherein the linker is a polyethylene glycol linker.

239. (Previously added) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 221, wherein said dsRNA is modified so as to be resistant to RNA degradation.

240. Cancelled Previously.

241. (Previously added) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 221, wherein said 3' overhang is a single nucleotide overhang.

242. (Currently Amended) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 241, wherein said oligoribonucleotide is 21 [or 23] nucleotides in length.

243. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising an oligoribonucleotide according to claim 221 and 224.

244. (Previously added) The composition of claim 243, further comprising a second oligoribonucleotide, wherein said second oligoribonucleotide differs in sequence from said oligoribonucleotide.

245. (Currently Amended) The mammalian cell of claim 232 and 237, wherein said dsRNA is modified so as to be resistant to RNA degradation.

246. Cancelled Previously.

247. (Currently Amended) The mammalian cell of claim 232 and 237, wherein said 3' overhang is a single nucleotide overhang.

248. (New) The mammalian cell of claim 232, wherein said exogenous oligoribonucleotide is vector encoded.

249. (New) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 221, wherein said double-stranded region is fully complementary to less than the full length of an RNA transcript of a mammalian target gene.

250. (New) A vector encoding the oligoribonucleotide of claim 221 or 224.

251. (New) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 224, wherein said double stranded structure consists of two self-complementary RNA strands of 15 to 49 nucleotides.

REMARKS

Claims 221-225, 232-239, 241-245 and 247-251 are currently pending in the application. Claims 221-224, 232, 236-238, 242-243, 245 and 247 are amended. Claims 248-251 are added. The amendments find support in the specification and are discussed in the relevant sections below.